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The Eshleman Family

There was no uniform official spelling of family names in Switzerland until 1822, so the spelling of the Aeschlimann name varies in the early Swiss records, as most names do.

Variations: Aeschlimann, Ashleman, Eshelman, Eshleman

FAMILY HISTORY

The Aeschlimann family was first mentioned in 1393.

--According to the TELLBUCH (Tell Book) of 1393, Ulli (Ulrich) von Eschli (Aeschli), resident of the parish of Rüederswil, paid a tax of one pound to the city of Bern in Switzerland.

--In 1530, during the migration of the Zurich refugees into Emmenthal, the name Aeschlimann is mentioned and it seems as though they embraced the Mennonite or Baptist faith.

--The next known mention of the family was in 1534 of Peter Eshlimann, a resident of or near Langnau. --In 1543 a Hans Eschlimann was living at or near Signau.

--In 1552 Hans Easchlimann was living at Aeschli and his relative, Christian, was living at Bushlmatten, Luetzelfluen or Trachaelwald.

--In 1556, a Peter Aeschlimann, son of Benedict, was baptised in Langnau.

--In 1653 a Michel Aeschlemann was one of the leaders of the peasant war against the industrial tyranny and landed tyranny of Switzerland, around Berne.

The Director of the Archives at Bern has given several examples of the many Aeschlimanns who were Mennonites. However, he has said that the records of Mennonites are not given in the official records, therefore there is little hope of finding information about them in their native areas. In 1597 the Mennonite wives of Hans Aeschlimann in the parish of Rüejsau and Christian Aeschlimann in the parish of Sumiswald, were forced to leave the country and their property was sequestrated. In 1599 Peter Aeschlimann, of Ober-Aeschli, was fined for lodging and hiding a fugitive Mennonite. There are other mentions of Mennonite Aeschlimanns. Included in the list of Mennonites driven out of Langnau in 1692, are Elizabeth Aeschleman, "the old fish woman" and her daughters, Magdalena and Elsa, and Ely Aeshleman's wife, Magdalena.

It is possible that as many as 15 or 20 Aeschlimann individuals came to Pennsylvania between 1710 and 1775. Most of these people were probably Mennonites and were fleeing from persecution. The immigrants settled in or near Lancaster County in Pennsylvania.

According to the Pennsylvania Archives, Series II, Vol. XVII, the Eshleman immigrants arriving from Europe to Pennsylvania are: